Supports Item No. 4
CS&B Committee Agenda
February 15, 2007

CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date:	January 30, 2007
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Meeting Date:	February 15, 2007

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets

FROM: Director of Social Planning and Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, in consultation with the Directors of Legal Services, Real Estate Services and Facilities Design and Management

SUBJECT: Amenity Bonus Sublease - 639 Hornby Street

RECOMMENDATION

A. THAT the City accept the surrender of the sublease of the amenity bonus facility at 639 Hornby Street granted by the City to Simon Fraser University, effective March 31, 2007, and that each party release the other from any liability under the sublease; and

B. THAT Council authorize the Director of Social Planning and Assistant Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, in consultation with the Directors of Legal Services, Real Estate Services and Facilities Design and Management, to undertake a Request for Proposals for the sublease of the amenity bonus facility at 639 Hornby.

CONSIDERATION

C. THAT Council consider the proposal for an interim month-to-month tenancy, as outlined in this report, subject to a report back on tenant finances and operations, as described in this report, including ability to pay facility operating costs (common area and direct costs.) Any difference between a tenant's payment and total facility costs would constitute a grant and require approval by eight votes of Council. The source of funds would be a $75,000 budget provided in the 2007 Operating Budget.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of A and B and puts forward C for Council's CONSIDERATION.

COUNCIL POLICY

The Amenity Bonusing Program, as approved by Council in 1975, provides for the sublease of an amenity bonus space to a Vancouver-based non-profit social service and/or cultural organization at a nominal rate for a term of up to 15 years and includes a series of requirements and obligations of the subtenant with respect to public accessibility, public service and financial management.

Council approved a five-year sublease commencing May 1, 2003, of the amenity bonus facility at 630 Hornby to Simon Fraser University for the purpose of the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education, at a nominal rent of one dollar per annum.

SUMMARY

The amenity bonus space at 639 Hornby was leased to the City for 99 years in 1991, and was originally designed for and sub-leased to the Canadian Craft Museum. In 2003, the space was sub-leased to Simon Fraser University, for the purpose of the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education. Simon Fraser University has indicated its intention to terminate the sub-lease effective March 31, 2007. Because the City's lease is with SFU, the university's decision to terminate also terminates the tenancy of the Chief Dan George Centre.

In the absence of a tenant, the City is responsible for facility costs estimated at $100,000 annually. These costs include common area costs due to the building's owner and other direct facility costs. The pro-rated cost for 2007 is $75,000. A budget allocation of $75,000 has been added to the 2007 Operating budget to cover these costs.

This report recommends that Council accept the surrender of the sub-lease, and authorize staff to enter into an RFP to seek a long-term tenant. In keeping with Council's approved policy for amenity bonus spaces, a sub-lessee must offer quality, accessible and affordable programs and services to the public, be able to cover the facility's operating costs (common area or "Allocable Operating Costs" and other direct operating costs), have a capacity for capital fundraising to cover any tenant improvements required by their occupancy, and the capacity to cover their own operating costs.

Over the past three years, the Chief Dan George Centre has offered a number of programs and events in cooperation with SFU and with other Aboriginal groups and organizations. At present, an employment-related program funded through another Aboriginal organization is operating in the space, but the Centre does not have a formal agreement with this group regarding the operation or continuation of this program. To date, City staff have not received financial or programmatic information from the Chief Dan George Centre which would enable an assessment of the Centre's ability to operate in accordance with the principles established for amenity bonus facilities.

As an alternative to accepting vacant possession, this report puts forward for Council's consideration, acceptance of an interim tenancy on a month-to-month basis, pending RFP results. This report notes a number of conditions recommended for such a tenancy. Should Council wish to consider an interim tenancy and the interim tenant be unable to pay total facility operating costs (Allocable Operating costs), approval would constitute a grant to the organization and require eight votes of Council. Consideration of this option would require a report back to Council on the details of the interim tenancy.

The Chief Dan George Centre desire is for a continuation of their long-term tenancy without an RFP process. Given the lack of clarity regarding the Centre's finances and long-term programmatic mandate, and the current policy and practices regarding RFP processes, staff are unable to support this.

PURPOSE

This report recommends that Council accept the surrender of the sublease for 639 Hornby and enter into an RFP process to seek a long-term tenant for this amenity bonus space.

BACKGROUND

The amenity bonus facility at 639 Hornby was purpose-built to house the Canadian Craft Museum and was leased to the City in 1991 for 99 years at a nominal rent of one dollar per annum.

The space is 8,841 square feet in size, comprised of approximately 4,500 square feet of open space on the main floor, several offices/smaller rooms on a mezzanine, and a basement which was built with workshop space and a climate-controlled storage vault. The space was sub-leased to the Canadian Craft Museum but the museum was unable sustain its operations and surrendered its sub-lease on January 1, 2003.

On May 1, 2003, Council approved a five year sub-lease to Simon Fraser University (SFU) for the purpose of the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education at a nominal rent of one dollar ($1) per annum, the sub-lease to be renewable for two further five-year terms. The sub-lease was signed on September 9, 2003.

Under the City's head lease with the owner, the City is responsible for Allocable Operating Costs and any direct facility costs that might accrue. For the first 15 years of the lease, these costs were offset by an annual credit, to a total of $1,092,544. This credit expired effective July 1, 2006, whereupon a monthly payment of $6,400 became due to the owner. Costs for 2006 were partially offset by the credit. The yearly Allocable Operating Costs for 2007 are estimated at $90,000. Under the City's sublease, SFU is responsible for the Allocable Operating Costs. SFU has also paid direct operating costs for janitorial, security, phones, computers and other operating expenses, with an annual budget of $23,736. The total operating costs for the facility (exclusive of program and staffing costs) have been approximately $113,000 annually.

On October 4, 2006, SFU formally indicated its intention to terminate the sublease effective December 31, 2006. On November 17, 2006, SFU advised that it would amend its termination date to March 31, 2007, and would pay the required Allocable Operating Costs to that date.

Because the City's lease is with SFU, the university's decision to terminate also terminates the tenancy of the Chief Dan George Centre.

Arrangements now need to be made to secure a suitable long-term tenant.

DISCUSSION

As an amenity bonus facility, uses for 639 Hornby must be approved by Council. They must:

- Offer quality, accessible and affordable programs and services to the public; the space is a public amenity and must be used for public purposes;
- Be operationally viable, i.e. long-term operating and maintenance costs are supportable;
- Be of a type of services normally provided or supported by the City and at a service level supported by City policy; and
- Be operated by an organization with the administrative capacity and diversified revenue stream required to sustain the facility; and

Any group to whom the City subleases must be able to cover the facility operating costs (Allocable Operating Costs and other direct operating costs, maintenance and repairs, and have a capacity for capital fundraising to cover move-in costs, new signage, furnishings and any tenant improvements required by their occupancy. Under the terms of the head lease, the building owner must also approve of any sub-lessee.

Other examples of amenity bonus spaces and tenants include ArtStarts in Schools; the Vancouver International Film Centre; the Vancouver Volunteer Centre and several childcare centres e.g. 1188 West Pender. Amenity bonus spaces are intended to be publicly accessible and provide programs/activities that are available in the order of 30-40 hours/week. Space for non-profit administrative offices is considered ancillary to the primary use of providing community services and benefits accessible to the public.

Status of Chief Dan George Centre

The Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education was intended to be a centre of indigenous learning for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and to provide and support a variety of cultural and educational programs and initiatives.

The City leased this space to SFU for the purpose of the Chief Dan George Centre (CDGC). Since the Centre opened in September 2003, it has offered or hosted a number of educational and cultural programs and events in cooperation with SFU and with other Aboriginal groups and organizations. Examples include a non-certificate program in Leadership, Management and Communications, an Aboriginal Youth Theatre Project, and roundtable and meetings of Aboriginal arts and media associations. The main use of the space at present is as classroom space for an Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (Van ASEP) program, training students for work in the construction industry. Van ASEP has a two-year HRDC contract to March 31, 2008, for this program, but there is no formal agreement between Van ASEP and the Centre regarding delivery of this program. There are no other regularly-scheduled programs. Chief Dan George Centre has explored and continues to explore a variety of social,

educational and cultural partnerships but, at the date of writing this report, does not have formal agreements for any programs.

The Chief Dan George Centre Society has indicated its desire to continue tenancy; however, to date, they have not been able to provide detailed information on their programmatic or financial activities and staff have not been able to determine their long-term capacity to occupy the space.

Social Planning staff have met with Centre representatives on several occasions and have requested financial information on the revenue and expenditures of the Chief Dan George Centre Society and information on any confirmed revenue sources. To date this has not been provided. The Centre has provided some Van ASEP information, attached as APPENDIX A, indicating that Van ASEP pays annual staffing costs of $150,000 and that the HRDC contact allows a contribution to rental and other costs of $50,000 annually. If the Van ASEP program continues to operate in the Centre, the Chief Dan George Centre may have the capacity to cover their own staffing and direct operating costs for 2007, but would have limited capacity to contribute to the facility Allocable Operating Expenses. The Centre has also provided some cost estimates and further information on the Centre attached as APPENDIX B. Staff cannot properly assess the situation based on the currently-available information.

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

This report recommends that Council accept the surrender of SFU's sub-lease of this amenity space, effective March 31, 2007, and requests Council's authority to enter into an RFP process for a new sub-lease of this space. It is estimated that an RFP process, including the report to Council, would take up to six months.

Upon accepting surrender of the sub-lease on April 1, 2007, the City is responsible for all facility costs for the space until such time as a new tenant can be selected. The City's share of the common area or Allocable Operating Costs for the remaining nine months of 2007 will be approximately $67,000. Since there are some security and additional costs required to maintain a vacant site, staff recommend a budget of $75,000. The funding for this has been provided in the 2007 Operating Budget.

As an alternative to accepting vacant possession, Council may wish to consider the proposal for an interim use of the space on month-to-month basis, as outlined below, until such time as a new tenant is secured. Staff recommend that an interim tenant must cover, at minimum, all direct facility costs associated with their occupancy. If an interim tenant is unable to cover all the common area or Allocable Operating Costs (approx. $7,500/month), and should Council wish to consider this, the difference between the tenant's payment and total costs would constitute a grant to the tenant by the City and require approval by eight votes of Council. Consideration of an interim tenancy will require a report back to Council.

If the Chief Dan George Centre wishes to pursue the interim tenancy, required information to evaluate their application would include financial statements for 2006-07, a proposed program and operating budget, confirmation of Van ASEP or any other funding, and confirmation that the organization has the capacity to administer and manage the building during their tenancy.

Staff note that the lease of amenity bonus spaces at a nominal rent provides a benefit to non-profit tenants and consideration of additional assistance in offsetting occupancy costs could set a precedent in the City relationship with its other non-profit tenants. Consideration of such assistance on a long-term basis would appropriately be dealt with as a policy decision.

A third possibility which staff are unable to recommend is the Chief Dan George Centre's interest in continuing as a long-term tenant without an RFP process. The Society notes that the space was leased to SFU for the purpose of the Chief Dan George Centre and would prefer to continue its tenancy without an RFP process. Given the lack of clarity regarding the Centre's finances and long-term programmatic mandate, staff are unable to support this option.

RFP Process

As noted earlier, a new tenant/sub-lessee would be evaluated against the principles of providing a cultural or social program or service; a program that suits the space; financial and organizational capacity to operate and to pay for the facility costs; capacity for capital fundraising for necessary tenant improvements, and the nature of the public access to this amenity.

In general, the RFP would require:

- A non-profit operator providing a social/cultural use, with the primary use of the space being to provide community services and benefits accessible to the public;
- A lease term of ten years, with the option to renew, pending satisfaction of the terms and conditions of the lease occupation;
- Operating and maintenance costs for said premises, estimated at $10/square foot/year (2005 rates);
- The premises' share of Allocable Operating (Common Area) Costs, estimated at $88,000/year (2006 rates);
- One dollar ($1.00) per year in lease cost to the City; and
- Any costs related to tenant improvements to the premises.

It is anticipated that an RFP could be issued by mid-February, 2007, and the assessment process and recommendation report to Council by mid-May. An Evaluation Team consisting of Senior Social and Cultural Planners, and representatives from the City's Real Estate and Facilities Design & Management Departments will review and assess proposals and make tenant recommendations to Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In the absence of a tenant able to cover designated costs, the City is responsible for the Allocable Operating Costs and any costs required to secure the space. Funding for the Allocable Operating Costs and other direct costs to a total of $75,000 has been added to the 2007 Operating Budget.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Securing a suitable social/cultural tenant for this amenity bonus space will provide a public benefit to Vancouver residents.

CONCLUSION

The amenity bonus space at 639 Hornby is well situated to provide social/cultural programs which benefit Vancouver residents. An RFP process is recommended to secure a long-term tenant for this important resource.

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VanAsep Training Society

Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education

Financial Status

The VanAsep Training Society currently administers a series of programs and services through the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education.

No formal agreement is in place. VanAsep has commitments to provide one million worth of programming via the CDGCAE and an additional request has been sent to Ottawa to support 1.5 million in new resources from January 2007-2011for essential Skills/ Literacy.

Annual Expense plan	Course or program	VanAsep Training Society	Other revenue sources	Total expenditures
	Core training	$90,000.00	$30,000.00	$120,000.00
	COPS	$75,000.00	$75,000.00	$150,000.00
	C. WSO	$120,000.00	$30,000.00	$150,000.00
	Essential Skills	$60,000.00	$20,000.00	$80,000.00
Total Revenue for April, 2006 to March,31,2007				$500,000.00

VanAsep allows for rental of facility and administration costs other than delivery to a maximum of 10% or $50,000.00. The shortfall will be made up by rental revenue in favor of the CDGCAE. Vanasep will pay rent for facility use on occasion other for delivery of training.

These funds may be used towards the facility costs for the city.

In addition the following staffing is now on site at the CDGCAE.

Currently, VanAsep Training Society is administering the following positions on behalf of the Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education.

Executive Director, CDGCAE, Operations Manger for the Facility:
Cynthia Rayner

- $60,000.00 annually plus benefits. 15% $70,000.00

Maintenance Manager: CDGCAE,
Gary Mojak. Responsible to the Executive Director,
Cynthia Rayner, for keys, janitorial services, security
and building maintenance.
Full time position at $20.00 hour/ 40 hours per week. Plus benefits. $45,000.00

Reception clerk,
Ashley Michell, $15.00 hour/ 40 hours a week/ plus benefits. $35,000.00

Commitments to date $150,000.00

For more information on CDGCAE financial statements for the current year April, 2006 to March 31, 2008 contact Linden Pinay, executive director VanAsep Training Society. Linden@vanasep.ca or call 604-294-5448

VanAsep
TRAINING SOCIETY

The Chief Dan George Centre
For Advanced Education
639 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 2G3
Phone: (604) 268-7871
Fax: (604) 268-7870

January 18, 2007

Anne Kloppenborg
Director – Social Planning
City of Vancouver
#100 – 515 West 10th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Z4V8

Dear Ms. Kloppenborg,

Please accept the attached interim report as an up-date on the activities of the Chief Dan George Centre. The CDGC is honoured to be part of Vancouver City's commitment to building dialogue and partnerships with the Aboriginal community. The CDGC believes in creating cultural opportunities for the Aboriginal community and has done so over the past 3 years, with training programs (including high-tech, leadership, and trades), World Peace Forum events, Aboriginal Cultural Cabarets and Film Festivals , and Aboriginal Media Lab think-tanks. At these events and programs, people of all cultures, ages and economic backgrounds benefited and contributed to dialogue and exchange.

The CDGC is currently transitioning to an exciting and productive new phase its activities. We have formed new partnerships and are in the process of negotiating relationships with partners who will further the objectives the CDGC. We anticipate that this renewal will secure a bright future for the Chief Dan George Centre and the Aboriginal community. These relationships will potentially focus on Aboriginal languages, Aboriginal contemporary culture and academic courses in the area of business and leadership.

In addition, we will continue to pursue our existing programming and to this end, we have designated a small space in the facility for the exhibit of contemporary and traditional artists. Also, we anticipate a series of think tanks and other public events, building on our past successes with such events. We are regularly contacted to host events at the CDGC, such as International Honours Program put on by the University of Boston, held at the CDGC this past December, 2006.

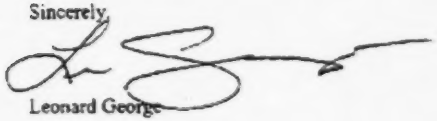
Huy chexw!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

We have a special commitment to education and dialogue, but also see ourselves supporting emerging, contemporary artists and are particularly interested in intellectual and philosophical dialogue, especially in the sphere of media. The CDGC is a hub of cultural, educational and social activity of many cultures from West Coast First Nations, to Vancouver's vibrant urban Aboriginal contemporary arts community, to life-long learners of all cultures and ethnic communities in Vancouver who are interested in dialogue.

We were most honoured when the City of Vancouver offered to work with us, initially for a 5 year term. We hope to build on this and to work hard to uphold the spirit of cooperation and good will. Please note that we are in the process of finalizing our basic operating budget in the near future, but have included an interim project operating budget, as well as other materials.

Sincerely,



Leonard George

1. Interim Operating Budget
2. Financial report
3. Update on Governance Structure
4. Up-dated Activities Report
5. Proposed Activity and Programming Report

Chief Dan George Centre Interim Operating Budget Report

1. Revenue Projections Operating Budget
Revenue:

VanAsep $4,100/m x 12 =	50,000
SFU Continuing Education 1000/m x 12 =	12,000
Royal Rhodes Univ 5000/m x 12 =	60,000 (potential projected)
UBC (various departments) 5000/m x 12 =	60,000 (potential projected)
Total:	182,000

Operating Costs

Basic building expenses	94,000
Other building expenses	20,000
Basic Administration	70,000
Total	184,000

On or before May 31st of each year, or at any time requested by the City, the Society will provide to the City the following:?
□ Board-approved financial statements for the previous year, prepared at the Society's expense by an accounting professional. Such statements shall include all operating, capital, maintenance reserve and special purpose funds and shall itemize administrative and program costs;?
□ a balanced annual budget including an estimate of all revenues and expenditures;?
□ a summary of activities for the past year demonstrating how the Society has fulfilled its Public Service Objectives;?
□ evidence of a functioning/governing Board of Directors; and?
□ a summary of planned activities for the coming year. Further, if requested by the City, the Society shall submit to the City minutes of all Board meetings.
In retrospect, re: yesterday's meeting, I would have expected some sort of financial info relating to CDG - cash on hand and any revenues/expenditures for 2006, and a proposed budget for operations for 2007 showing all expenses and all revenue, including VanAsep etc. It will be difficult to respond to questio

CHIEF DAN GEORGE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION

"It is a place where we can be proud to be part of"

Chief Dan George Centre – Concept and Philosophy

The Chief Dan George Centre is dedicated to the education and the betterment of Aboriginal people, by providing a place where knowledge is shared and life-long learning thrives. Indeed, life-long learning is at the centre of Aboriginal traditional educational practices and beliefs, and at the core of the CDGC philosophy. The CDGC will build on its preliminary successes by continuing to develop educational programs, provide cultural learning and encourage exchange opportunities that promote individual and community self-sufficiency and the values of self-governance.

The CDGC also believes that Aboriginal knowledge and philosophy has a role to play in the culture of Canada – in every walk of life, from commerce to art, from human resources to media, from resource management to urban sustainability, to name a few. CDGC will provide a unique learning and dialogue environment to engage community leaders to find appropriate ways to integrate Aboriginal knowledge, values and cultural perspectives into to fabric of Canadian society.

Chief Dan George Centre – Operation Background

The Chief Dan George Centre for Advanced Education (CDGC) began operations in 2003 and officially opened its doors on September 23, 2004 with the support of the City of Vancouver, Simon Fraser University, and Western Economic Development. Formed as a non-profit society, the board of the CDGC is at present:

Leonard George – Leonard George is a member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation, located in North Vancouver. George is a lecturer, humorist, film and script consultant, and actor. He is also a traditional native singer and dancer. Former Chief of Tsleil-Waututh Nation, he now works for TAKaya Developments.

Chief Leah George - Chief Leah George-Wilson is a member of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Chief George-Wilson is the first woman to be elected Chief by the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation (2001-2003), and is currently serving her second term (2005-2007). Prior to that, Chief George-Wilson worked in community development, including with the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation's negotiating team in the BC Treaty Process.

Ed John - Grand Chief Edward John, a lawyer, is a Hereditary Chief (Akile Ch'oh) of Tl'azt'en Nation. He served as Councillor of Tl'azt'en Nation from 1974 to 1992, elected Chief from 1990 to 1992 and is now the Grand Chief of the Tl'azt'en Nation. He served as the Minister of Child and Family Services for the Province of BC from 2000 / 2001. Chief John now serves on the political executive of the First Nations Summit.

Victor York - Victor York was the long-term Chief of Lower Nicola First Nations, and a key contributor to the development of education and economic programs in the Nicola Valley. He works currently as an addictions counselor with Hey-way'-noqu' Healing Circle for Addictions Society in Vancouver.

Chief Dan George Centre - Projects 2004/2006

After establishing initial operations, the CDGC began a number of projects, serving close to 200 Aboriginal learners in a range of education and training services.

In partnership with Simon Fraser University, CDGC delivered a non-certificate program in **Leadership, Management and Communications** to 14 Aboriginal managers to provide practical skills and tools needed in managerial leadership within Aboriginal governments, organizations and communities. The program combined traditional cultural management methods with standard business practices.

In partnership with IBM, CDGC developed and delivered **Microsoft Certified Office Training Program** and also offered the training off-site to train administration staff of the N'Quatqua Band. The program built skills and confidence working with IT systems used extensively by First Nations and Metis governments and organizations.

A **Financial Customer Service Training Program** was developed in partnership with financial institutions to provide those underemployed and unemployed to train for employment within the financial services industries. The first Financial Customer Service Training Program was delivered in association with the Royal Bank resulting in eight permanent job placements.

CDGC began long-term planning in three major areas:

1. **With SFU, the CDGC developed an Aboriginal Hippy Program** (Home Instruction For Parents Of Preschool Youngsters) dedicated to early childhood development issues faced by Aboriginal families. This project underwent extensive development, including Canada's first pre-service training for HIPPY coordinators. As well, a major proposal was produced to establish a National Research and Training Centre in Aboriginal early childhood development, but was put on-hold when federal funds were unavailable.

2. **Aboriginal-e Distance Learning Project** – Here, CDGC undertook the development of distance learning targeting Aboriginal Students to attain their GED - Grade Twelve Equivalency. A first step in a larger, more extensive Aboriginal distance learning initiative, the Aboriginal-e Project is a unique approach to distance learning that features an emphasis on skilled mentors who work with students on-line. A web-based portal would also serve as a resource and research centre for students and academics. The GED portion of Aboriginal-e is still in development with a school district and has potential to go into operation in the near future.

3. **The Entrepreneurship and Start-Up Business Program** at the Chief Dan George Centre is intended to provide practical small business programs by self-employed First Nations and Metis. The nature of this program is to provide culturally relevant instruction in how to start and operate an entrepreneurial project, with emphasis on marketing, market research techniques, product and service positioning as well as basic image and communications/advertising skill sets. The program has been developed and could be able delivered with an implementation strategy in place.

Current Programs and CDGC Partnerships

CDGC and the Aboriginal Media Lab

The **Aboriginal Media Lab (AML)** is a place where filmmakers, artists, community people, academics, broadcaster and educators can gather to explore Aboriginal Media. The AML formed strategic partnerships with the Chief Dan George Centre, Simon Fraser University and the First Nations Studies Department at UBC. The AML promotes Aboriginal new media and technology-

based art and communications and offers an environment for Aboriginal research that recognizes and promotes Aboriginal knowledge and knowledge systems. Created by Aboriginal filmmaker Loretta Todd, the Media Lab promotes Aboriginal leadership and excellence in today's knowledge-based economies. The AML is supported by the Canada Council and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

To-date, the AML has offered three think-tanks, all held or developed at the CDGC. These include an analysis of how Aboriginal history is represented in Storyeum and the CBC series, *Canada: A Peoples' History* as well as an extensive research project and think-tank examining *Humour and Satire in Aboriginal Media*. Each event brought together key Aboriginal producers, directors, academics and writers to share their perspectives. As well, experiments in media were undertaken, including a new media/music/film fusion experiment bringing a group of artists and musicians who created a live, musical performance to accompany the screening of the 1929 silent feature film *The Silent Enemy*. Extensive planning is underway for future events.

CDGC and VanASEP

The CDGC recently developed a working relation with VanASEP to develop skilled Aboriginal workers for the construction industry. VanASEP is the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program, launched in late 2003 with a five-year initiative. Its overall objective is to create sustainable employment for Aboriginal people in major economic initiatives across Canada through collaborative partnerships, including the BC construction industry, Aboriginal communities in the Greater Vancouver Area and private sector employers. The project will enable training for at least 600 Aboriginal individuals, and guarantee a minimum of 200 apprenticeships, with an overall expectation of 300 Aboriginal people employed in long-term sustainable careers in the construction industry. The VanASEP focuses primarily, but not exclusively, on opportunities relating to the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre project, the Vancouver Port Expansion project and the Sea to Sky Highway project.

These partners are helping to create a viable work opportunities leading up to and beyond the 2010 Olympics, at the same time giving Aboriginal people the opportunity to explore careers in the construction industry. VanASEP targets training at those with an aptitude for construction. It also provides support for those seeking transition back to the workforce, or who are entering the workforce for the first time, and for those who are may be considered at risk. This program is currently providing rent to the CDGC for use of the facilities, but CDGC will soon be contracted to deliver their program in Vancouver. The majority of the programs are classroom oriented. Facilities for construction training will be off-site.

Future Partnerships

The CDGC is approached on a regular basis to partner with events, organizations, private sector and communities for a wide variety of activities. It is currently exploring strategic collaboration with the First Nations Studies Department at UBC (in addition to its current link through the AML), potential programming with the Jane Goodall Institute and other cultural programs that enhance economic, educational and social development for Aboriginal people and communities.

Chief Dan George Current Operations

The CDGC is open on a regular basis, operating from 7:30 AM until 5 PM each day. It is also accessible in the evenings and weekends, with special arrangements and appropriate security measures in place. As well, the Independent Scholars Association shares offices with the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations Centre for Language Culture at the CDGC on a part-time basis.

Chief Dan George Centre - Community Partnerships

CDGC has become a key gathering place for Aboriginal people from many communities and professions. This has resulted in a number of unique events and exchanges at the Centre, within the areas of media, art, education, community development and economic development. To the Aboriginal community, the CDGC stands for creativity, innovation and dialogue – where Aboriginal people can embark on productive exchanges with one another and the many unique communities within Vancouver, in Canada and the world. And, it is place where Aboriginal people can proclaim their unique culture knowledge and expression.

A few Community Partnership highlights include:

Independent Aboriginal Screen Producers Association (IASPA) held its first National Roundtable in April 2005, which established IASPA as a key organization in the development of an Aboriginal Media industry. Independent Aboriginal producers and filmmakers from across Canada met to discuss their common agendas, and to develop future strategies. As well, representatives from the Canadian film and television industry were present to discuss how to strengthen the Aboriginal media industry. These representatives included CBC, NFB, Telefilm Canada, APTN, CHUM, Heritage Canada, Canada Council, CTV and others.

The Aboriginal Youth Theatre Project, (sponsored by the Aboriginal Art and Culture Celebration Society), was successfully delivered at the Chief Dan George Centre over a 5-month period in the spring and summer of 2005. The AYTP provided youth the opportunity to develop, train, mentor and implement an Aboriginal youth-run theatre project. The project included 'at risk' and street involved youth. Workshops included exchanges with Elders on the protocols in the transmission of Indigenous knowledge and oral histories. The AYTP produced two short plays, in which the participants were involved in all aspects of the production. The Aboriginal Youth Theatre Project is currently developing a 5-year plan for an on-going Aboriginal Youth Theatre.

The **Indigenous Media Arts Group (IMAG-Nation)** held many of its 2005 Film and Video Festival activities at the CDGC, including industry-related panel discussions, cultural and networking events and closing award ceremonies. As well, IMAG screened their youth program videos at the Centre.

The project, **Our City Our Voices**, a partnership with **Storyscapes**, the City of Vancouver and National Film Board, launched the screening of the video document project based on the stories by and about Aboriginal people of the Downtown Eastside.

The **Jane Goodall Institute** held a special dinner with Jane Goodall in attendance and the Centre was used as the staging area for a **Dalai Lama** speaking engagement.

Aboriginal poets, performers, singers, drummers, and musicians participated in a number of events, including **Aboriginal Cabaret**, **Chief Dan George Jam**, **Chief Dan George Annual Feast**, **Storytelling** events, **Aboriginal Day** events, **Skeena Reece Cabaret** and other social and cultural gatherings. It is safe to say that hundreds and hundreds of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people attended these events. The CDGC also hosted an **art auction and gathering** to support Tsunami Relief, and the **Bill Reid Foundation** held a couple of events at the Centre, as did other community organizations.

Recently, the **World Peace Forum** held an important Aboriginal event as part of the Forum, with such workshop topics as *Self-Governance & Community Social Justice Systems* - Peaceful efforts to integrate models creating dialogue for self-government, *First Nations Leadership Council* – with representatives discussing the formation of the Leadership Accord and *First Nations Missing Women of Canada*. Speakers included Bev Jacobs, National Association of Aboriginal Women, Grand Chief Edward John, and Stewart Phillip – UBCIC.

Chief Dan George Centre Strategy Committee

The CDGC is currently undergoing an extensive renewal process, with the formation of the CDGC Strategy Committee. This Committee is made up of cultural and business leaders in the Aboriginal community who mapped an action plan for the next six months to ensure the CDGC is strengthened and meets the challenges of its great potential. There are a number of steps underway:

1) Rearticulating the CDGC Vision and Purpose in the Aboriginal educational, cultural, governance and economic development spheres.
2) Examining the CDGC as a leader in Dialogue and Research, bringing Aboriginal knowledge and philosophy into the fabric of Canadian society.
3) Strengthening the role of lifelong learning, and articulating the continuing studies programs that are needed in the Aboriginal community, and to explore how non-Aboriginal communities may interact with such programs.
4) Examining potential users of the CDGC facilities that enhance the CDGC goals and vision.
5) Examining private and public sector partners for compatibility with CDGC's vision and goals.

The Strategy Committee is currently:

1 - Developing a business plan (with a 6 month time frame), which will map CDGC development, focusing on viable opportunities and partners.

2 - Initiating immediate fundraising methods, including private sector contributions.

3 - Recruiting other leaders to participate in process.

CDGC STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Doreen Jensen – Doreen Jensen is a Gitksan artist, historian, author, language teacher and activist. She was instrumental in the formation of the K'san Historical Village and Museum in Hazelton, BC and has curated such historic art exhibits as *Robes of Power*. Her writing has appeared in numerous publications.

Debbie Hoggan – Debra Hoggan has extensive experience with community based non-profit organizations. Through her company, Business Design Group, she provides project management, organization development and fundraising services, working with First Nation communities and Aboriginal organizations at the community, provincial, national and international levels. She also has a strong entrepreneurial background and has owned a variety of retail businesses.

Paulette Seymour – Paulette Seymour is an independent contractor who specializes in Aboriginal program development and Human Resources planning. Her work has included Visions for the Future, helping transition federal health services to Aboriginal communities and helping Aboriginal communities develop HR strategies. A former graduate of BCIT, Ms. Seymour has served on the Board of Governors at BCIT and is currently on the Advisory Council of BCIT Aboriginal Services.

Len George - Leonard George served as elected Chief of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation for twelve years from 1989–2001. He is one of the founding members of the Vancouver Aboriginal Centre and served as Director from 1981–1988. George is currently Director of the Economic Development for the Tsleil-Waututh Nation and the Chief Negotiator in the Treaty process.

Loretta Todd - Loretta Todd is an internationally acclaimed filmmaker, whose films screen world-wide. She's received many prestigious honours, including a Rockefeller Fellowship to NYU and attendance at the Sundance Scriptwriter's Lab. Ms. Todd is also active in community development, especially in art and media. She is one of the founders of the Aboriginal Arts Program at the Banff Centre, as well as many other training initiatives in the field of media.